The Light of Life

John 8:12 ¶ Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the **light of life**.

True Followers “have the **light of life”**

-True Worship is faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Light of Life-

Fully Believe on Jesus

There is absolutely one Faith to follow to have the light of Life, but many kinds of belief

John 7:31 And many of the people believed on him, and said, When Christ cometh, will he do more miracles than these which this man hath done?

John 8:28 Then said Jesus unto them, When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am he, and that I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things. 29 And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him. 30 As he spake these words, many believed on him. 31 Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; 32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

The proof of your discipleship will be your persevering in your faith as His Word is in you." If we say that we believe in Jesus, we must prove it by abiding in believing Jesus as Saviour and by still further believing Him as Lord.

The Word of Jesus must be the object of our faith; into that Word we must enter and the Word must enter us and in that Word we must continue. Beginning to believe is nothing unless we continue to believe and obey Him as Lord of all our life.

I. These believers were not all of one kind;

The LORD HAD DIFFERENT KINDS OF BELIEVERS AROUND HIM.

There were two sorts of believers distinguished in the Word.

8:30—“many believed on him”

8:31 Then said Jesus to those Jews **which believed on him**, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;

It is a singular expression also, "Those Jews which believed on him."

They were Jews still in connection to their traditional belief. —Jews first of all, whatever they might be in connection with their Judaism.

The omission of the word "on" or "in" would be exactly accurate; and it helps to bring out an important distinction, while it also accounts for what seems so strange, that those who had believed him, immediately after, charge him with being a Samaritan and having a devil, and should even take up stones to stone him.

The same sun that hardens the clay softens the wax. This discourse, which proved the savour of death unto death to the obstinate Pharisees, became the savour of life unto life to many of the simple-hearted people.

A lot of people say that they believe and have not faith.

What is it to believe on Christ?

It means not only to accept what he says as true, and to believe that he is the Messiah and the Son of God, but trustfully rest in him as Lord and Saviour.

To believe on him is to call on Him as our Saviour, upon whom we depend for salvation. When we believe in him or on him, we accept him as God our Saviour; and we trust on him to do for us what God has appointed him to do. Fully Trusting on Jesus is saving faith.

John 1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

To believe him may be a very different thing from believing on him. Such belief may fall far short of saving faith.

To believe **on** him means heartily to give yourself up to him, and to follow him as the way, the truth, and the life.

To believe on him is also to obey implicitly. We believe all that he may say. We accept not only what he says which we can fully understand, but that which is dark to us. We so believe in him that we believe in all his teachings.

Jesus is Saviour for every sinner and Lord for every believer.

We not only go as far as he has revealed himself to us, but we are prepared to go as far as he pleases. What he says is truth to us, on the sole evidence that he says it. We believe in Jesus, not because we have understanding but because he says it.

1. True Worship begins with believing Jesus is Lord based on His Word.

John 8:11 She said, No man, **Lord**. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.

This woman came from unbelief, sin, adultery and selfish carnal living for she was in the act of sin and with no intentions of her own to be with Jesus in the temple to hear and obey His Word.

But there is **another kind of belief** natural reasoning which was not produced by the Saviour's Word but while He spoke, a false hope arose. There is a temporary belief which believes Jesus in a sense, and after its own way of understanding him, or rather of misunderstanding him.

Natural reasoning believes about him; believes that he was undoubtedly sent of God; that he was a great prophet; that what he says is, to a high degree, reasonable and right, but does not fully trust Him as Lord.

Natural reasoning believes of what he has said; but not prepared to believe or accept everything that he may say. This natural reasoning believes everything that instructs itself by its own judgment: it does not, in fact, believe in Jesus as Saviour and Lord, but believes in itself, and believes him so far as the Lord agrees with their opinions. This belief is not prepared to obey Christ, and accept him as **Master and Lord**.

This was the kind of belief these Jews possessed: it was a belief which was so crowded with prejudice that before long it smothered them. They might accept Jesus as the Messiah, but then he must be the kind of Messiah they had always pictured in their minds—a leader who would defeat the Romans, who would deliver Palestine from the foreign yoke, rebuild the temple, and glorify the Jewish race. They half hoped that he might turn out to be a great leader for their own purposes; but they did not believe in him as he revealed himself as the

1. 8:12-the light of the world, the light of Life
2. 8:36-the Son of God
   * 1. 8:38 I speak that which I have seen with my Father:
     2. 8:42 Jesus said …I proceeded forth and came from God
     3. 8:54 Jesus answered…it is my Father that honoureth me
        1. one with the Father.

A great deal of disbelief, misbelief is current at the present day. We are encouraged by certain persons to include in our churches all that have any sort of belief; and, indeed, the line is to be more inclusive still, for these who have no belief at all are to find an open door.

Only those who enter by the door of regeneration and spiritual faith will be within the kingdom of the Lord. They must be baptized in the Holy Ghost to be a part of the body of Christ.

Don’t think some strange thing has happened unto us as a church when the baser sort are found among us, like Judas, Ananias, Demas. A notable believer Simon Magus, believed because he saw the signs and wonders wrought by the apostles; but as he also sought to make gain of godliness, he remained in the gall of bitterness, and in the bonds of iniquity, and never became "a disciple indeed." There is one even the devil. We read that "the devils believe and tremble."

They hold on to belief, and feel something of the power of it, for they tremble. Devils know that Jesus is the Christ of God; for they have confessed it, and have borne witness to the gospel in the open streets, crying after the preachers of the Word; and yet with all their knowledge, and their sort of belief, and with an apprehension which leads to trembling, they remain devils still, and can’t make any advance towards God.

Beware of that belief which is a mere intellectual movement, which does not control the heart and the life. Synagogue worship was a source of pride to the Jews, it was exceedingly mortifying to those Jews who obstinately remained in unbelief as they saw many believe on Jesus.

To come to faith through a cold argument, and to feel no spiritual life, is but poor religion

You want faith that leads you to an entire reliance upon the person of Jesus, to the giving up of everything to him, to the reception of him as your Saviour and King your all in all.

You have not believed unto eternal life unless you have so believed on him that you make him the foundation and corner-stone of your life. You must believe in him for taking away sin. God has set him forth to be the propitiation for sin, and you must believe on him in total capacity.

We never preach the saving power as temporary, unpractical, unsanctifying belief. If a man says, "I believe in Christ and therefore I shall be saved, his faith will have to be tested by the light of life.. The faith of God's elect is an abiding faith; it is precious faith. Now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three."

True Worship is through faith among abiding in the word, undying, unquenchable love for the Lord. If you truly believe in Jesus, it is for life. Saving faith is to be a life-long act. “continue in My Word”

III. The LORD SETS BEFORE THEM TO CONTINUE IN HIS WORD.

John 8:31 ¶ Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;

A. Discipleship is obedience to the Word in True Worship : "Then are ye my disciples indeed." That is to say, if they persevered in obeying his Word, they would be disciples, not in name only, but in truth.

It is a small thing to be called Christians; but it is a great matter truly to be Christians.

Further, they would not be merely superficial learners, but deeply taught, and inwardly instructed disciples of Jesus. They would really and truly know what Jesus taught, and would receive it into their inmost souls: they are a disciple indeed.

When a man loves the Lord, and treasures his words; he puts his discipleship of Christ before everything, and you cannot live with him a single day without perceiving a savor of Christ in his words and action. You say of him, "That man is indeed a Christian." In such a case religion is not exhibited by way of pride, as with the Pharisees of old, but it is seen because it is there, and must shine forth. Faith throbs in the man's pulse, it looks out from his eyes, it tunes his voice, and lights up his countenance, it rules his house, and controls his business. The man lives for Jesus, and if it were necessary he would die for him.

Highly worship Christ as Lord.

Blessed is he who makes his Master's service his pleasure; his Lord's law his delight; his Saviour's glory his occupation; he is a disciple indeed if he continues in the Word!  
To have the assurance that we are a disciple indeed is a blessing. Some are always asking themselves, "Am I truly a disciple?" He that continues in Christ's Word in loving obedience, soon ceases to ask that question: he has the witness in himself, he has the witness in Christ. He knows that he is Christ's disciple, for he continually follows his Master. He not only believes, but he knows that he believes. He has continued in the Word so long that he has no doubt about his being in it.

B. TrueWorship always results in **Experientialknowledge** "Ye shall know the truth"—not *a* truth; but *the* truth; the saving, purifying, glorifying truth. Keep on believing, and Jesus will teach you that great truth which is above all other truths. You shall *know* the truth. You may be charged false, but you will not flinch from the assurance that you *know* the truth and you continue in the truth. You no longer guess, nor hit on probabilities; but you *know* truth.

NOT to grow familiar with the verse and not do it; truth will be to you a well-known friend to know it.

You will discriminate for you know the truth when you see it, and detect it at once from the deceptive falsehood. You will know the truth, and you will not be led away by the flattering voice of error.

Abiding in Christ with Christ's Words abiding in you!

C. True Worship is to be **Spiritually Free**; "the truth shall make you free."

1. Free from sin. He that lives in sin is the slave of sin. True belief in the Word of Christ leads to freedom from the power of the evil which dwells in our members, and from the dominating power of the sin which rules in the customs of the world. "The truth shall make you free." You shall be free from your own prejudices, prides, and lusts. You shall be free from the fear of man.

When Jesus is Lord you shall be free from sin. "The truth shall make you free"; this is a noble saying. Oh, the liberty that comes into the soul through believing on Jesus, who is the truth! It makes life to be life indeed when this freedom is enjoyed. In laying hold on the truth as it is in Jesus, the soul lays hold on liberty  


Disciples indeed, you believe everything taught in God's Word, be it what it may; the truth has so entered into you that you now know it and are sure; and this believed-truth has made you so free that you defy the fetters which men would cast around you. Your Lord has caused you to believe in him, and you have now found the Word written in your heart, mind that your soul may abide in life, light, liberty.

D. The LORD TESTED THEM BY THE MOST EFFECTUAL MEANS.

The test was very sharp in its action, and sudden in its results.

"Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free":

What followed? "They answered him"—answered him rather than believed him.

How did they answer? Did they say, "Yes, Lord, we believe; teach us thy truth, and make us free"? No, no. They cried, "We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free"? These supposed believers stumbled at the Lord's word—*stumbled at a privilege.* Jesus said, "The truth shall make you free," and that offended them! To make freedom a stumbling-block is folly.

John 6:53 Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you.

John 6:66 From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him.

The privilege of feeding upon his sacrifice, which binds many of us to him with bands of love, determination and commitment drove others away from him with cords of hate.

John 8:33 They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free?

The reason why these Jews became so angry with our Lord was that *he touched their pride.* "Make us free indeed!" they cried. "We always were free; we were never slaves. We enjoy the largest rights through our father Abraham; we have never come under the dominion of any false prophet or idol god.

Make us free indeed! How sayest thou this!" Thus the wild thinker claims that he is free, and needs no liberty from Christ.

The sinner who is in bondage to his passions, scorns the idea of being set at liberty.

E. The LORD DESERVES THE HIGHEST FORM OF FAITH—The highest degree of faith possible.

John 8:11 She said, No man, **Lord**. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.

John 4:21 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father.

22 Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews.

23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.

24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

25 The woman saith unto him, I know that Messias cometh, which is called Christ: when he is come, he will tell us all things.

26 Jesus saith unto her, I that speak unto thee am he.

29 Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?

39 And many of the Samaritans of that city believed on him for the saying of the woman, which testified, He told me all that ever I did.

41 And many more believed because of his own word;

42 And said unto the woman, Now we believe, not because of thy saying: for we have heard him ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world.

John 9:35 Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when he had found him, he said unto him, Dost thou believe on the Son of God?

36 He answered and said, Who is he, Lord, that I might believe on him?

37 And Jesus said unto him, Thou hast both seen him, and it is he that talketh with thee.

38 And he said, Lord, I believe. And he worshipped him.

The preaching of the cross brought faith to the many who believed on him.

John 8:28 Then said Jesus unto them, When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am he, and that I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things. 29 And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him.

What a perfect life is that of Jesus!

Jesus was obedient to the Father in all things, It was his meat and his drink to do the will of him that sent him, and to finish his work.